

Appln No. Unassigned
Docket No. 52448/TJD/M881
Prelim. Amdt date April 21, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An instrument system for pedicle screws (1) having an internal thread (3) in their head (2), said thread accepting a grub screw (5) with an external diameter D_1 in the direction of the screw axis (21) to fixedly clamp a connection part (4) which projects transversely to the screw axis (21) into the head, with a holder (6) with projections (7) engaging in a shape matched manner at the head of the pedicle screw and a screwdriver (10) with a diameter D_4 being able to be positioned at the grub screw (5), comprising that at least two holders (6a, 6b, 6c, 6d) with a tubular part (8) are provided, with the tubular part (8) being supportable at the head (2) of the pedicle screw; in that a ~~centering~~ centering part (12) insertble instead of the grub screw (5) is present, which can likewise be screwed into the internal thread (3), can be gripped when the holder (6a, 6d) is mounted on and corresponds in its external diameter D to the diameter D_1 of the grub screw (5) in order to be able to pull off the same holder (6a, 6d) or other holders (6b, 6c) and to be able to guide them as often as desired to shape matched mating surfaces of the pedicle screw, with the tubular part (8) having an internal diameter D_2 which is only a little larger than the diameter D_1 in order to position the grub screw (5) with the screwdriver (10) or the ~~centering~~

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centering part (12) guided through the tubular part (8) to the head (2) of the pedicle screw such that ~~its~~ threads of the grub screw engage with the internal thread (3) in a non-tilted manner.

2. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the internal diameter D_2 amounts to less than 1.3 times the diameter D_1 .

3. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the internal diameter D_2 amounts to less than 1.1 times the diameter D_1 .

4. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~centering~~ centering part (12) has a central region (13) in the longitudinal direction which can be elastically deflected up to an angle of 20° or more away from the longitudinal axis.

5. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~centering~~ centering part (12) has a lower diameter D_3 in its central region (13) in order, as a flexural spring, to allow an envisaged deflection.

6. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~centering~~ centering part (12) has substantially circular cross-

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sections and jacket lines with gentle, stepless transitions in the longitudinal direction following the central region (13).

7. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~centering~~ centering part (12) has substantially circular cross-sections and jacket lines with gentle, stepless transitions in the longitudinal direction following the central region (13).

8. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a tubular holder (6a) is formed with a ~~centering~~ centering part (12) as a positioning apparatus for pedicle screws in which the mounted holder (6a, 6d) has a fixing element (14) towards the ~~centering~~ centering part (12) blocking in the axial direction, said ~~centering~~ centering part (12) in turn being screwed into the head (2) of the pedicle screw.

9. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mounted holder (6d) has a fixing element in the form of a clamping screw (73) which is supported at its head (72) on the holder (6d) and engages in the axial direction into an internal thread (76) at the rear part of the ~~centering~~ centering part (12).

10. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fixing element acts as a lever (11) on a transverse groove (15) of the ~~centering~~ centering element (12).

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11. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tubular part (8) has a deflection apparatus (22) for a band or cable (16) pulled through the screw head (2) a projecting shoe (17) with a deflection arc (18) and, at the other end of the tubular part (8), with respect to rotation, a shape matched coupling surface (23) for a band or cable tensioner which supports the band or cable tensioner in the direction towards the pedicle screw (1).

12. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the deflection arc (18) has a radius of curvature larger than 3 mm along its base (19).

13. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the shoe (17) has a deflection roller (18a) instead of a deflection arc.

14. (Currently Amended) An instrument system for pedicle screws (1) having an internal thread (3) in their head (2), said thread accepting a clamping screw ~~5~~ (5) in the direction of the screw axis (21) which can be screwed in by a screwdriver (10) with a diameter D_4' to fixedly clamp a connection part (4), which projects transversely to the screw axis (21) into the head (2), with a holder (6) with projections (7) engaging in a shape matched manner at the head of the pedicle screw, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising at least two holders (66, 68) with a tubular part (8) are provided, with the tubular part (8) being supportable at the head (2); in that, in addition to the

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screwdriver (10), a ~~centering~~ centering piece (12) is present which can be inserted through the tubular part (8) and which can likewise be screwed into the internal thread (3), can be engaged when the holder (66, 68) is mounted and corresponds with its largest diameter D' to the diameter D_4' of the screwdriver (10) in order to be able to pull off the same holder (66) or other holders (68) and to guide them back to shape matched mating surfaces as often as desired, with the tubular part (8) having an internal diameter D_2' which is only a little larger than the diameter D_4' of the screwdriver in order to align the clamping screw (5') with the axis (62) of the screwdriver using a gripping device (59) in the screwdriver (10) and to position the clamping screw (5') at the thread (3) indirectly with the screwdriver (10) or to position a ~~centering~~ centering part guided directly through the tubular part (8) at the thread (3) or to guide a holder to a pedicle screw at a screwed in ~~centering~~ centering part (12).

15. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the diameter D_2' amounts to less than 1.2 times the diameter D_4' .

16. (Currently Amended) An instrument system in accordance with claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the diameter D_2' amounts to less than 1.1 times the diameter D_4' .